

is held by one hand,

coat film transfer head means for pressing the coat film transfer tape onto the object of transfer is attached to the leading end portion of said case,

the coat film transfer head means comprises a head main body for pressing and transferring the coat film transfer tape, a head holder for supporting the head main body rotatably about its axial center, and a rotating operation unit for positioning the head main body in the rotating direction, and

the rotating operation unit functions also as a head position indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body.

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10-12 are amended.

Applicants express their appreciation for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 9 and 10. As indicated in the Office Action these claims would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims are amended to overcome the 112 rejection and to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 7, 9 and 10 are allowable over the applied art.

The Office Action objects to the abstract of the disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action has mistakenly referred to the abstract of the disclosure rather than the specification. The specification is amended as shown herein by changing "prevent" to "present". Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7 and 9 are objected to because of informalities. The claims are amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully request.

Claims 1-5, 7, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Office Action is particularly concerned with "the case" in claim 1. However, it is respectfully submitted that the Office Action has mistakenly referred to claim 1 instead

of claim 2 because there is no reference to this term in claim 1. The claims are amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Koyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,556,469). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Koyama et al. is directed to a coating film transfer tool that includes an operating device, a tape paid-out device, a tape pressing device and a tape collecting device. The operating device is configured and dimensioned for allowing hand-held operation by one hand. The tape paid-out device is provided in the operating device for paying out a coating film transfer tape for supply. The tape pressing device projects from a front end of the operating device for pressing the coating film transfer tape supplied by the tape paid-out device against a transfer area. The tape collecting device is provided in the operating device for collecting the coating film transfer tape guided through a pressing part in a front end of the tape pressing device after it is used. The front end pressing part of the tape pressing device is adjustable in angle about its axial center.

The primary object of the claimed invention is to provide a coat film transfer head device which can be used like a writing tool by adjusting the tape pressing and transferring position depending on the manner of holding a writing tool by the user and further concerning the coat film transfer head, which can check the tape pressing and transferring position at this time directly and visually.

To achieve the object mentioned above, an important feature of the claimed invention is a structure comprising a head main body for pressing and transferring the coat film transfer tape, a head holder for supporting the head main body rotatably about its axial center and a rotating operation unit for positioning the head main body in the rotating direction, wherein the rotating operation unit serves also as a head position indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action states that Koyama discloses a coat film transfer head device (coating film transfer head H) disposed at the leading end portion of a coat film transfer tool (Figure 1) for pressing a coat film transfer tape (coating film transfer tape T) onto an object of transfer which includes a head main body for pressing and transferring the

coat film transfer tape (head body 35 and pressing part 35a); a head holder for supporting the head main body rotatably about its axial center (semi-cylindrical portions 3c and 4c and bearing part 36); and a rotating operation unit for positioning the head main body in the rotation direction (rotative part R), in which the rotating operation unit serves also as a head position indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body (column 9, lines 41-49).

However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the position of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. While Koyama is also owned by Seed Rubber Co., Ltd., contrary to the PTO position, the rotating operation unit R of Koyama cannot serve as a head position indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body such as that of the claimed invention.

That is, the rotating operation unit R for rotating the head H comprises a cap member 40 detachably attached to the cylindrical front end 5 and a positioning part 41 placed on an outer circumference of a cylindrical front end 5. The cap member 40 is integrally engaged with the head H rotating direction (column 8, lines 17-25). And, by rotating the cap member 40, the head H is selectively positioned in one of five angle positions between the vertical holding operation position X (in which an engagement projection 46 of the cap member 40 comes into engagement with the first engagement recess 45a) and lateral pulling operation position Y (in which the engagement rejection 46 comes into engagement with the fifth engagement recess 45e), thereby allowing individual users to take a position of use freely depending on the manner of holding a writing tool, and being usable with a writing tool-like feeling whether in vertical pulling or in lateral pulling (column 9, line 59-column 10, line 9).

However, in the coat film transfer head device of Koyama, the user cannot check the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body 35 by referring to the direction of the rotating operation unit R, because the rotating operation unit R does not have a structure designed sufficiently to serve as a head position indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body 35. Therefore, in the coat film transfer head device of Koyama, the user must check that of

the head main body 35 by directly referring to the direction of the head main body 35. This matter of checking may tend to cause a mistake in operation.

As described above, Koyama not only does not disclose the claimed invention (i.e., the primary object of the claimed invention, the structural features of the claimed invention especially, the structure that a rotating operation unit for positioning the head main body in the rotating direction serves also as a head position indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body, and operation and effect of the claimed invention) but also does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1. Specifically, the applied art fails to teach a rotating operation unit for positioning the head main body in a rotating direction which serves also as a head position indicating unit for indicating a tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body as recited in claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, claim 8 is allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Equally, independent claims 11 and 12 directed to a coat film transfer tool also include all of the features of claim 1. Therefore, independent claims 11 and 12 are allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the other features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Koyama et al. as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Mendelovich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,904,806). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As indicated above, claim 1 is allowable over Koyama et al. Mendelovich et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Koyama et al. and therefore claim 1 is allowable over the combination of the applied art.

Mendelovich et al. teaches a tape dispensing applicator and a replaceable tape cartridge. The cartridge supports a role of tape and a leading edge of the tape extends outwardly from the case. A partial cylindrical cover member is connected to the first end of a shell for pivotable movement thereabout along a predetermined path to cover a first passageway. A slider having a first end which is pivotally connected to the cover member and has a button which extends through a first slot in the shell is movable between a first position and a second position. In the first position, the cover member covers the first passageway. In the second position, the cover member is removed from the first passageway.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Koyama et al. as applied to claim 1 and further in view of Blau (DE 43 24 383 A1). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 1 is allowable over Koyama et al. Blau fails to cure the deficiencies in Koyama et al. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable over the combination of these references.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 6 is allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

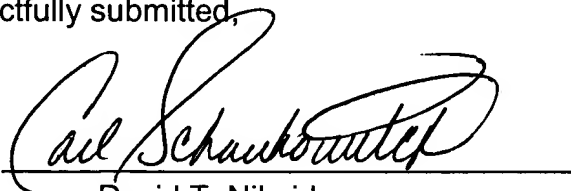
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the

Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 13, 2002

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Enclosure(s):      Appendix I (Marked-up Version of Amended Specification)  
                         Appendix II (Marked-up Version of Amended Claims)  
                         Petition for Extension of Time (three months)

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## **APPENDIX I**

### **(MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED SPECIFICATION)**

On Page , Paragraph:

It is hence a primary object of the invention to ~~prevent~~ present a novel coat film transfer head device solving the problems of the prior art.

## **APPENDIX II**

### **(MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS)**

1. (Amended) A coat film transfer head device disposed at the leading end portion of the coat film transfer tool for pressing a coat film transfer tape onto the object of transfer, comprising:

a head main body for pressing and transferring the coat film transfer tape,  
a head holder for supporting the head main body rotatably about its axial center, and

a rotating operation unit for positioning said head main body in the ~~a~~ rotating direction,

wherein the rotating operation unit serves also as a head position indicting unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body.

2. (Amended) The coat film transfer head device of claim 1,  
wherein the rotating operation unit includes an operation lever related to the tape pressing and transferring position of said head main body, and

~~this the~~ operation lever projects to the ~~an~~ outside of the ~~a~~ case through an operation guide in a slit form penetrating through the case of the coat film transfer tool.

7. (Amended) ~~The A~~ coat film transfer head device of claim 4, further comprising: disposed at a leading end portion of the coat film transfer tool for pressing a coat film transfer tape onto the object of transfer, comprising:

a head main body for pressing and transferring the coat film transfer tape,  
a head holder for supporting the head main body rotatably about its axial center, and

a rotating operation unit for positioning said head main body in the rotating direction, and

positioning means for positioning and holding the head main body steplessly around its axial center,

wherein ~~this the~~ positioning means comprises the ~~an~~ operation lever



provided in ~~the~~ a cylindrical supported portion, and a positioning engaging portion in a slit form provided in ~~the~~ a cylindrical bearing ~~oppositely opposite~~ to the ~~an~~ operation guide in a slit form, to be engaged with the operation lever elastically as being held at both sides, the rotating operation unit serves also as a head position indicting unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body and the head holder includes the supported portion provided concentrically and integrally with the head main body, and the cylindrical bearing provided at the device main body side for supporting the supported portion slidably and rotatably.

9. (Amended) ~~The~~ A coat film transfer head device of claim 4, further comprising: disposed at a leading end portion of the coat film transfer tool for pressing a coat film transfer tape onto the object of transfer, comprising:

a head main body for pressing and transferring the coat film transfer tape,  
a head holder for supporting the head main body rotatably about its axial center, and

a rotating operation unit for positioning said head main body in the rotating direction,

positioning means for positioning and holding the head main body at plural steps around its axial center,

wherein ~~this~~ the positioning means comprises ~~the~~ an operation lever provided in ~~the~~ a cylindrical supported portion, and a positioning engaging portion in a slit form provided in the cylindrical bearing ~~oppositely opposite~~ to the ~~an~~ operation guide in a slit form, and

~~this~~ the positioning engaging portion has a width enough to be engaged with the operation lever elastically as being held at both sides, and also includes a positioning recess for positioning the operation lever at ~~the~~ a specified position in its longitudinal direction, the rotating operation unit serves also as a head position indicting unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body and the head holder includes the supported portion provided concentrically and integrally with the head main body, and the cylindrical bearing provided at the device main body

side for supporting the supported portion slidably and rotatably.

10. (Amended) ~~The~~ A coat film transfer head device of ~~claim 4~~, further comprising disposed at a leading end portion of the coat film transfer tool for pressing a coat film transfer tape onto the object of transfer, comprising:

a head main body for pressing and transferring the coat film transfer tape,

a head holder for supporting the head main body rotatably about its axial center, and

a rotating operation unit for positioning said head main body in the rotating direction,

positioning means for positioning means comprises an engaging bump provided on ~~the~~ a cylindrical outer circumference of the ~~a cylindrical~~ supported portion or ~~the~~ a cylindrical inner circumference of the ~~a cylindrical~~ bearing, and engaging recesses provided at specific intervals in the circumferential direction on the cylindrical inner circumference of the cylindrical bearing or the cylindrical outer circumference of the supported portion, and the engaging bump and engaging recess are elastically positioned and engaged, the rotating operation unit serves also as a head position indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main body and the head holder includes the supported portion provided concentrically and integrally with the head main body, and the cylindrical bearing provided at the device main body side for supporting the supported portion slidably and rotatably.

11. (Amended) A refill type coat film transfer tool ~~capable of replacing the operative for use with a replaceable~~ coat film transfer tape,

wherein a tape cartridge containing a rotatable pay-off reel on which ~~a the~~ coat film transfer tape is wound, and a rotatable take-up reel for collecting the used coat film transfer tape is detachably provided in a case which is held by one hand,

coat film transfer head means for pressing the coat film transfer tape onto the object of transfer is attached to the leading end portion of said tape cartridge,

~~this the~~ coat film transfer head means comprises a head main body for

pressing and transferring the coat film transfer tape, a head holder for supporting ~~this~~  
~~the~~ head main body rotatably about its axial center, and a rotating operation unit for  
positioning the head main body in the rotating direction, and

~~this~~~~the~~ rotating operation unit functions also as ~~the~~ a head position  
indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head  
main body.

12. (Amended) A disposable coat film transfer tool using a one-time coat  
film transfer tape,

wherein a pay-off reel on which a coat film transfer tape is wound, and a  
take-up reel for collecting the used coat film transfer tape are provided in a case which  
is held by one hand,

coat film transfer head means for pressing the coat film transfer tape onto  
the object of transfer is attached to the leading end portion of said case,

~~this~~~~the~~ coat film transfer head means comprises a head main body for  
pressing and transferring the coat film transfer tape, a head holder for supporting ~~this~~  
~~the~~ head main body rotatably about its axial center, and a rotating operation unit for  
positioning the head main body in the rotating direction, and

~~this~~~~the~~ rotating operation unit functions also as ~~the~~ a head position  
indicating unit for indicating the tape pressing and transferring position of the head main  
body.